Everyone is arguing about copyright and electronic publishing; few pay attention either to the law or the great possibility.

By law, the publisher is the person or entity responsible for published content.

And "Electronic publishing" cannot, must not mean only closed objects that have to be used separately.

The great possibility is a world of combinable objects that may be linked by users:

OPEN HYPERMEDIA PUBLISHING.

We want an enchanted grove, a fair playing field, where all connections and quotations are allowed and sorted out. Copyright law by itself won't do it; and so we extend the law by a system of contracts. If this is a world in which you would like to work and play, Welcome to Xanadu.

BILL OF INFORMATION RIGHTS in the Xanadu^{FM} Publishing Universe

AS A READER OR HYPERNAUT--

by connecting to one Xanadu supplier, you connect to the whole Xanadu universe. you may point and click indefinitely from document to document, or within documents. you may send for any part of any published object in complete privacy; no record is kept. you may keep what you send for (and get a receipt token to help file it). you may print it out and keep or give away the copy.

AS A PUBLISHER--

you may link to, comment on, append to any published document.

you may quote any other document within the system by transclusion pointer

(the quotaton is bought automatically from the original publisher).

accordingly, you relinquish control of connections from other documents.

your document is kept inviolate.

you may publish anything within the law.*

you take responsibility for the contents and all possible violations of law and tort—

-- just as you do in paper publishing.

AS A SUPPLIER--

you may locate anywhere, connect to your customers in any way. charge what you like for storage and connection. give credit, or accept payment or trade in any form.



^{*} Future hot spot for litigation, prosecution, persecution, etc. Be warned. Make no mistake: we are entering a world of danger. There are baguys. Shit will happen. This is an endeavour to keep our freedoms while staying within the law, whatever that may turn out to be.